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 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY -Czechoslovakia
 SUBJECT Scientific - Research activity
 HOW PUBLISHED Weekly newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED Prague
 DATE PUBLISHED 30 Jun, 13 Jul 1950
 LANGUAGE Czech

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 17 Sep 1950

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Sbirka Zakonu Republiky Ceskoslovenske and Hospodar.

DISCUSSES ACTIVITIES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTER

The Scientific Research Center, which began functioning in February 1950, has been assigned three urgent tasks: to examine the research plan for the remainder of 1950, to secure the fulfillment of the plan through appropriate organizational arrangements, and to enlarge and secure the education of new scientific cadres.

In connection with the first task, all research tasks have been divided into three groups: general tasks, sector tasks, and branch tasks:

The general tasks have been assigned directly to the Center. These are the most important research problems, the solution of which is urgent for the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan and which will assist in:

1. Acceleration of the reconstruction of the economy.
2. Increase, conservation, and utilization of domestic sources of raw materials.
3. Saving of domestic or imported raw materials, semimanufactures, and manufactures.
4. Increase of productivity through saving manpower and materials or through organization of production.
5. Research for appropriate arrangements to prevent great losses to the national economy.

For the remainder of 1950, 300 general problems were selected from among 6,000 planned tasks.

The second category consists of sector tasks which are assigned, planned, followed, and controlled by the proper ministries and includes tasks which are important to the particular economic sectors.

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The third category consists of branch tasks, that is, tasks that are important for certain economic branches. Their planning and control are carried out by the proper central managements.

The second task of the Center has been to reorganize Czechoslovak research. About 2,000 scientific workers, distributed over about 1,200 locations, are now engaged in research. The Center is to concentrate these cadres into larger groups. This will probably be done largely in 1950. Only three types of research institutions will be established: central research institutes responsible directly to the Center, departmental research institutes under the ministries, and sector research institutes subordinated to the central managements. In addition, individual factories or enterprises may establish smaller research units for their own purposes.

In accordance with the cabinet resolution of 20 June 1950, the following central research institutions have been established, effective 1 July 1950: biological, chemical, physics, geological, mathematical, polarographical, and astronomical.

The central institutions will be situated in Prague. The Minister-Chairman of the State Planning Office may establish subsidiaries of central institutions outside Prague. The central institutions will have the following functions:

1. Conduct, within the framework of the plan for research work, theoretical and experimental research in their own fields, primarily basic research.
2. Fulfill other tasks assigned to them by the Scientific Research Center.
3. Train scientific workers.
4. Cooperate in the preparation of the proposed research plan.
5. Support the Center in the fulfillment of its tasks.

The central institutions are independent state institutions. They are administered by managers who are assisted by deputies. The managers and their deputies are appointed by the cabinet, on recommendations of the Minister-Chairman of the State Planning Office and following the testimony of the chairman or the Scientific Research Center.

Advisory groups are established as auxiliary organizations of the managers of central institutions. Each advisory group has not more than 15 members, who are appointed by the chairman of the Scientific Research Center on the recommendations of the manager of the central institution. The members are appointed from among the representatives of the participating ministries, enterprises of the socialist sector, institutions of higher learning, and mass organizations. Membership in the advisory group is an honorary function. The task of an advisory group is to, above all, give suggestions concerning the proposal for its work plan.

The State Geological Institute in Prague (State Office for Soil Research) and the State Geological Institute in Bratislava are included in the Central Geological Institute. The State Observatory in Prague with the observatory in Ondrejov and the State Observatory on Skalnaté Plesce are included in the Central Astronomical Institute.

The third task of the Center is to care for the education of young research workers. The shortage of scientific cadres is so great that it would be necessary to increase the number of scientific workers by at least five times if Czechoslovakia's industry were to approach the level of other states. It will be the task of the Center to make sure that about 800 new scientific workers are trained in the research institutions by the end of the Five-Year Plan. About 60 candidates of the institutions of higher learning were trained in research institutions in 1949.

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This number has been increased to 200 in 1950 and it is intended that it be increased to 400 in 1951. Competent graduates of higher learning institutions are selected as science candidates. Their training is entrusted to outstanding experts in the research institutions or in the higher learning institutions. The training lasts 3 years.

In addition to these tasks, the Center exchanges research experience with other people's democracies and the Soviet Union. In this field, it will be necessary to arrive at an appropriate division of labor among the individual people's democracies.

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